

# The Athenian Mercury.

Saturday, September 21. 1695.

Quest. 1. **I** Am a Virgin (at least I pass for such) It was my Fortune, about a year since, to come acquainted with a Gentleman, who Honourably Courted me till he had gain'd my Heart, and all my Affections; but the unalterable Resolution I have taken of Living and dying a Maid, hindered me from giving my Consent to marry him, and forc'd me to make him promise Faithfully, he would never more give me a Visit: I have ever since, with an unexpressible (though silent) Grief born the Loss of his Company; but find I can never be happy without sometimes seeing him, whom I still Love almost as well as my own Soul; but with nothing but a Platonick Passion: I desire to know how I may in some measure, regain his Lost Affection, so far as to Keep a Friendly Correspondence, without doing any thing may make me appear Little in his Thoughts, or raise a Scandal upon my Reputation.

Ans. Become a little more Reasonable, own your Error; first beg Nature's Pardon for dissembling so long, who will be sure, one time or other, to be Revenged of all those that make such Unnatural Pretensions. Consider the true Cause of this Uneasiness, which is certainly Love, and down-right Love too, that is willing to take the Body as well as the Mind, into the Bargain. Perhaps you may not be Free to think it so, because you have some time deluded your self with wrong Notions of it; and through a False Judgment you make of Honour, have some inclinations to persist in the Mistake. Were it not Love to the Person, why may not the same good Qualities please as well in another; the same Wit in a book, which is only unembodied? These Reflections are necessary for you, because, before you can expect to be happy, you must know truly what you desire. If after these Considerations your Resolutions remain unalterable, we'd advise you not to perplex the Gentleman with such a Ridiculous Love; for, probably, 'twill be to no purpose, since the acquainting him only with your Determination, seem'd a sufficient Reason to him to desist. But if they can reconcile you to Matrimony, let him know it by the most prudent means. If he's a man truly Generous, you may tell it him your self; he'll think ne'r the worse on you for it: Or else employ a Secret Friend to do it for you. As for your Reputation, it will be no injury to it to Retract such an Error as a Resolution against Marriage is, before we sufficiently know our selves.

Quest. 2. In how long time may one about Seventeen Years Old, and of a Good Capacity, learn the Latin Tongue, whose Occasions require the speedy learning thereof? Your Answer is begg'd as soon as your convenience will permit, because the Querist depends upon it.

Ans. Sir Samuel Hartlib, and Mr. Milton, who were both Good Scholars, and Ingenious Men, thought it the best way to delay the teaching the Latin Tongue till Lads were about this Age; at which time they would undertake to convince the World, they might better learn in Two Years, than if begun with about six or seven years old, they could in Seven or Eight Years; to which end Mr. Milton writ a Latin Grammar himself; and in that time we don't doubt but a sharp Youth may make a very considerable Progress in the Latin Tongue. But then a good Master is Requisite, who may be capable of giving the plainest, and best, as well as shortest methods to learn it; to which must be added the speaking part as soon as possible.

Quest. 3. What are the affections of the Air?

Ans. The affections of the Air are either absolute or Relative; those are absolute, which properly appertain to it; and are considered without respect to the mixture in the Atmosphere; these are three, fluidity, springiness, and weight;

Fluidity, or easy separation of its parts, which have no cohesion (at least, much less than the parts of water has) and from thence arises that aptness to receive into it Heterogeneous bodies, such as rays of light, steams of the Atmosphere, and (from particular bodies) evaporations which give unpleasing and offensive scents. Springiness, (called the Elastic power of it) whence proceeds an aptness to return to its due extension, when the parts are pressed together, or stretcht asunder beyond their natural state. Illustrated by a pound of Wool, which is capable of being thrust into a quart pot. This when freed from the compresse will of it self expatiate to its former bulk; and on the contrary any curled hair of that Wool may be drawn out to a greater length, than it usually stands at, which when discharged of its force will shrink again into its former pressure; it is the same with the Air. The compression of it is called condensation, because it has then more of the matter in less room, or space; and its contrary distension is called rarefaction, because it has less of the matter in greater space; As to what fills the vacuities between these little parts in rarefaction, in such cases where no sensible supply can be perceived, is yet undecided. As for instance, in the Thermometer, or common water-weather-glass, the water standing at some distance from the top, (which can't be exactly described without a Diagram) the warmth of the Air, or ones hand laid on the top, will bring it down much lower; by this the Air is rarified in the Ball, and the parts of it at the greatest distance one from the other; But whether there is only a vacuum between these little parts, or that the distance is supplied with an Etherial, or fiery matter, that can easily permeate the Glass to avoid a vacuum, has not yet been determined, but only that 'tis probably one of these. The third absolute affection is weight, or its tendency to the center of the terraqueous Globe, of this it must have some proportion, else the upper Region, at least, wou'd be diffused and lost in the æther, which lies between us and the other Planets, nor wou'd the steams of the Atmosphere be very easily held up by the reflection of the Suns Beams, nor cou'd those very Beams well return to the Sun, the Fountain, unless crushed up by the Air; (as Cork is out of the water) till they come to the surface thereof, and into the æther where they meet no resistance.

The relative affections of the Air are such as are ascribed to it, as being mingled with our terraqueous steams in the Atmosphere. This mixture is, by the Reflecting Beams of the Sun, carrying something of what they strike upon, like a Ball, which licks up Dust or Moisture, according to the place it lights on; and the particles carried up are Minute bodies keeping the qualities of their original. From this it is, that the two lower Regions of the Air are Denominated, not only of the first qualities, hot, dry, cold, moist, but have also two notable attributes ascribed to them which are, greater weight, and aptness for breathing. That the Air of these Regions has a greater weight than that which is natural and absolute, is proved, and measured, by the Toricellian experiment, to be

Equi-



Equiponderant in a Cylinder of Glass, suppose, of an inch Diameter, and 40 inches long, close at one end, and open at the other, filled up with quicksilver, and stopp'd with a finger, then it being inverted and the close end turned upwards, immerge the finger and open end in the quicksilver contained in a Glass, or Wooden open Vessel; the finger then being removed, the quicksilver in the pipe that was before full up to the top, 40 inches from the surface of the stagnant quicksilver in the Vessel, will perfectly fall down and hang 29 inches from the said surface. The reason of which is said to be because a pillar of the Atmosphere of the same Diameter (with the quicksilver in the Glass, reaching from the surface of the vesselled quicksilver to the utmost extent upward of the said Atmosphere, is Equiponderant to the little pillar of quicksilver (29 inches more or less) sustained in the pipe; and because the close end at the top bears off the Atmosphere, from the quicksilver in the pipe, and it falls without on the quicksilver in the vessel, therefore it must press or keep up so much quicksilver in the pipe, as will Equiponderate the little pillar throughout the Atmosphere. This weight of the Atmosphere varies in divers times, and in divers places, the Cylinder in the pipe is shorter on the top of an high Mountain, than 'tis in a Valley, because the like Cylinder of the Atmosphere is longer in the Valley, by the whole perpendicular height of the Mountain, and therefore must weigh more, and have more quicksilver in the pipe to counterpoise it. Dr. Power tells us, that *Pascualius* in a Mountain of 500 perch high, found the difference three inches; and also says that by the rule of proportion the height of the Atmosphere may be found; in the same place it likewise varies so as to press up the quicksilver in the Cylinder, more or less in the compass of about six inches, according as the steams are less or more ascending, or descending in the Air. So likewise the Aptness, nay even necessity, of breathing is ascribed to the Atmosphere, and its colder parts; for the pure Air is unapt for respiration. This Air mixes with our Animal Spirits not only by breathing, but by permeating the pores of our whole body, and from hence arises the distinction of wholesome and unwholesome Air, sweet or corrupted; for if it be impregnated with benign and Balsamick particles, it nourishes, maintains, or restores health; but if on the other hand the steams are fetid, poisonous, or otherwise Malign, they destroy the health, and endanger the life. Hence fires in the streets of a City, shooting off great Guns, and ringing of Bells, are accounted profitable in times of Pestilence; and also the natural helps of Frosts, Winds, and Rains, because these in some measure dissipate, or break down the *Miasmes* (or corrupted steams) that hover in the Air: Hence our care is, or should be, to mind well the place of our habitation, that the Air of it be suitable to our bodies, by its agreeable steams; upon this account also some persons in Chronical Distempers, are sent for health to their native Air, that is, to such steams as have formerly agreed with their bodies.

Quest. 4. *Why Women the more you love them, the more they hate you?*

Ans. Honest Querist, examine them a little better, and then if you can say such harsh things against those pretty harmless creatures, we'll maintain their cause.

## Advertisements.

### There is Newly Published,

1. The Letter written by Sir *DUNCOMB COLCHESTER*, a little before his Death; containing his REMARKABLE PENITENCE (which Letter was read publicly by his order, in the Parish Churches of *Michael-Dean* and *Westbury*) is now published, with other late Instances of that Nature. All which are annex'd to Mr. *TURNER's Essay upon the Works of Creation and Providence*, lately published. To which ESSAY is added a *SCHEME* of the History of Remarkable Providences, (now preparing for the Press.) As also a large Specimen of that Work. Price bound 12s.—

2. There is lately published a very particular account of the LIFE of the QUEEN, during her Residence in *Holland*, being—A COLLECTION of FUNERAL ORATIONS pronounc'd by publick Authority upon her Majesty's Death, by Dr. *James Perizonius*, Professor of Eloquence, History and the Greek Tongue, in *Leiden*, Dr. *George Grevius*, Professor of Theology in *Utrecht*, and several other Learned men.—In this COLLECTION is inserted—That Excellent METHOD her Majesty observed in Reading the Holy Scriptures—The manner how she spent EVERY DAY in the week—Some extraordinary Instances of her conjugal fidelity.—Her Conference with the English Ambassadors at the *Hague*.—Many divine, moral and political expressions, as at several times, and on several occasions they were delivered by her—With other Remarkable Passages in her LIFE and DEATH not hitherto made publick.—The whole attested by those Reverend and Honourable persons that attended upon her. Price 2 s. 6 d.—There is already published a FUNERAL ORATION upon the Queens Death, pronounc'd by publick Authority in the Hall of the most Illustrious States, upon the day of the Royal Obsequies, March 5. 1694. by the Learned *SPANHELMUS*, (who had frequent access to her Majesty whilst she lived in *Holland*.) This is Printed in 4to, to bind up with the forementioned COLLECTION.

Both Printed for *John Dunton* in *Fewen-street*, and may also be had of *Edm. Richardson* near the *Poultry-Church*.

3. If any Minister's Widow, or other persons have any Library, or parcel of books to dispose of, if they will send a Catalogue of them, or notice where they are, to *John Dunton*, at the *Raven* in *Fewen-street*, they shall have ready money for them, to the full of what they are worth.

4. *Walter Lloyd* at the *Antient Fowler* in *Tower-street*, *London*, Sells the Finest, strongest Glaz'd, or not Glaz'd Gun-Powder, which by the Experience of several Persons of quality and others hath considerably out done any Gun-powder yet made; the said strong Gun-powder, and all other sorts of Gun-powder is Sold by him at very reasonable Rates.

5. *Thomas Fabian* Bookseller, that Lived at the Sign of the Bible in *St. Pauls Church-yard*, a Corner Shop next *Chenapside*, afterwards over against *Woodstreet*, is now removed to *Mercers-Chappel*.